

What is claimed is:

**1. A biopsy system comprising:**

a first placeholder element insertable through tissue to a first selected location in a patient's body, the first placeholder element including a first element guide;

a tissue sampling element insertable to the first selected location via the first element guide for obtaining a sample of tissue from the first selected location, the tissue sampling element being removable from the first element guide while leaving the first placeholder element at the first selected location; and

a tissue treatment element insertable to the first selected location via the first element guide.

**2. The system according to claim 1, further comprising a handle including a channel extending therethrough for receiving the first placeholder element, the channel directing elements inserted therein to the first element guide.**

**3. The system according to claim 1, wherein the handle includes a sampling element actuator for operating the tissue sampling element when the tissue sampling element has been inserted therethrough to the first element guide.**

**4. The system according to claim 3, wherein the handle further comprises a sampling safety lock which, when in a locked configuration, prevents actuation of the sampling element actuator.**

**5. The system according to claim 2, further comprising a second placeholder element insertable through tissue to a second selected location in a patient's body, the second placeholder element including a second element guide, the second placeholder element removably receivable in the channel.**

6. The system according to claim 5, wherein the first and second placeholder elements comprise identification markings.
7. The system according to claim 1, wherein the first placeholder element comprises a hollow tubular member and wherein the element guide comprises a lumen of the hollow tubular member.
8. The system according to claim 5, further comprising a first luer attachment for coupling the first placeholder element to the channel.
9. The system according to claim 1, wherein the tissue sampling element comprises a biopsy needle.
10. The system according to claim 9, wherein the first element guide comprises a lumen extending through the first placeholder element and wherein the biopsy needle is insertable through the lumen.
11. The system according to claim 9, wherein the biopsy needle includes a suction lumen for applying suction to a sample of tissue for removal of the sample from the body.
12. The system according to claim 8, wherein the tissue sampling element comprises a second luer attachment for coupling the tissue sampling element to the channel.
13. The system according to claim 1, wherein the tissue sampling element further comprises an in-vivo tissue characterization device.

14. The system according to claim 1, wherein the tissue treatment element is insertable through a lumen of the placeholder element when the placeholder element is separate from the handle element.
15. The system according to claim 1, wherein the tissue treatment element comprises one of a monopolar and a bipolar electrode.
16. The system according to claim 14, wherein the electrode is a multi-barbed electrode.
17. The system according to claim 1, wherein the tissue treatment element comprises a conduit for insertion of a chemical treatment substance to the selected location.
18. The system according to claim 1, wherein the tissue treatment element is coupleable to a source of electric power and employs the first placeholder element as an electrode.
19. A method for treating tissue, comprising the steps of:
  - inserting a placeholder element into a body to a selected tissue location;
  - inserting to the selected location a tissue sampling element through a lumen of the placeholder element;
  - operating the tissue sampling element via a handle connected to the placeholder element;
  - detaching the handle from the placeholder element;
  - directing a tissue treatment element to the selected location via the placeholder element; and
  - operating the tissue treatment element to treat the tissue at the selected location.

- 20.** The method according to claim 19, further comprising the step of connecting the handle element to the placeholder element with a luer.
- 21.** The method according to claim 19, further comprising the step of inserting the tissue sampling element into a lumen of the placeholder element via a conduit in the handle.
- 22.** The method according to claim 19, further comprising the step of actuating a tissue cutting portion of the tissue sampling element via a first control of the handle.
- 23.** The method according to claim 19, further comprising the step of immobilizing a needle of the tissue sampling element with a second control of the handle.
- 24.** The method according to claim 19, further comprising the step of analyzing a tissue sample retrieved using the tissue sampling element to diagnose a medical condition of the patient.
- 25.** The method according to claim 19, further comprising the step of applying a chemical treatment substance to the selected location via the tissue treatment element.
- 26.** The method according to claim 19, further comprising the step of applying radio frequency energy to the selected location via the tissue treatment element.
- 27.** The method according to claim 19, further comprising the step of delivering to the selected location via the tissue treatment element at least one of laser energy, a high pressure water jet, a radiation dose and a chemical ablation substance.